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PARC's "Twin Towers" Development at "Ground Zero" - Nuking the Parkdale Neighborhood

From: jon rowland (jonrowland7@yahoo.com)

To: parkdaleneighborhoodgroup@gmail.com; mayor_chow@toronto.ca; jason.thorne@toronto.ca

Cc: councillor_perks@toronto.ca; amanda.dacosta@toronto.ca; councillor_holyday@toronto.ca; councillor_morley@toronto.ca; councillor_nunziata@toronto.ca; councillor_pasternak@toronto.ca; councillor_perruzza@toronto.ca; councillor_colle8@toronto.ca; councillor_bravo@toronto.ca; councillor_malik@toronto.ca; councillor_saxe@toronto.ca; councillor_matlow@toronto.ca; councillor_moise@toronto.ca; councillor_fletcher@toronto.ca; councillor_chernoslin@toronto.ca; councillor_burnside@toronto.ca; councillor_carroll@toronto.ca; councillor_cheng@toronto.ca; councillor_bradford@toronto.ca; councillor_kandavel@toronto.ca; councillor_thompson@toronto.ca; councillor_mantas@toronto.ca; councillor_myers@toronto.ca; councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca; agilmour-co@ndp.on.ca; uweditor@uwgt.org; agilmour-qp@ndp.on.ca; karim.bardeesy@parl.gc.ca; tom.hunter@torontoseniorshousing.ca; pm@pm.gc.ca

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 06:29 PM EDT

I was shocked and appalled to read your poster announcing the big plans of Victor Willis and his ilk at PARC to build a new "twin towers" between Dowling and Beatty. It was already Parkdale's Ground Zero. Now they've dropping "The Bomb" on it.

I lived beside PARC - in the building they recently purchased and have subsequently run into the ground - for 10 years from 2005 till 2015. All of my neighbors despised the place for how it was mismanaged. It's motto was - and probably still is - "we're rebuilding lives" - but we got sick and tired of walking over the bodies every morning. The bodies of PARC workers!

There are all kinds of physical reasons why the "twin towers" are a bad idea for the neighborhood. There is an even bigger cultural reason - the grifting incompetent culture of PARC's organization.

PARC scams all kinds of money for supports, attracts a population that desperately needs them, then spectacularly fails to provide them. Hence the designation "ground zero" for the environs as you approach PARC.

Every year the fallout from Lansdowne to Roncesvalles - people in misery for not getting what PARC was paid to provide but didn't and historically never does provide - gets seriously worse.

Thanks to PARC every morning we stepped over the bodies on our front steps. Now we step over the bodies all over Queen West from Lansdowne to Roncesvalles. Way to go, PARC!

The "twin towers" will go the way of Edmond Place and 1501 Queen Street West. PARC is currently systematically expelling the long-time relatively normal working-class tenants from the latter. The lucky ones manage to get into less hellish assisted housing via the HESH list. The unlucky ones live in fear, caught between drug dealers and the feckless management that enables them. Everyone who isn't already a dealer or a junkie - wants out. Nobody - at least who isn't one of those - has anything good to say about PARC.

To say that this worsening reality does not augur well for PARC's "twin towers" is a serious understatement. This is a disaster in the making - or given the arbitrariness of bad planning in Toronto - already made.

I've lived in Parkdale for 30 years. I've experienced bad landlords, but I've learned that there are degrees of bad landlords as of everything else. Before PARC purchased 1501 the landlord was Cesare Fazari, in many ways a classic slumlord but with some important positive differences. He owned a construction company, and his brother lived with us. He had skin in the game and would not allow things to get too bad, and he had the means to prevent them getting too bad.

This is certainly not the case with PARC's ED, Victor Willis. He doesn't live in Parkdale. Occasionally he visits us with his little dog. He's closer to Epstein Class than Working Class, let alone the working poor whose housing security he's destroyed along with their happiness.

Since leaving 1501 my landlord has been Toronto Community Housing, now Toronto Seniors Community Housing - for nearly 10 years. Anyone who really knows anything about life in Toronto knows how bad they are. The difference between PARC and TCHC is a matter of odds. The odds of your survival at TCHC or TSHC are marginally better than they are at PARC.

There is NO PERCENTAGE in PARC.

So what do you want? A landlord with whom you've no chance at all, or one with whom - with a little luck - you might at least survive.

I'd go for the latter, though I'm pretty sure it's the former we'll get. And this mean dropping The Bomb on Ground Zero.

PARC's "Twin Towers" mean The End of Parkdale as a viable neighborhood.

Best regards,
Jon Rowland

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BAD
SANTA
SIZZLING
GRILL
MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE
Bell
VICTOR WILLIS
DIRECTOR, PARC
BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
$CAMH
$camh

CAMH QUEEN WEST
DIGESTIVE TRACT

mouthpiece
CAMH CEO Catherine Zahn, CEO
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

gullet

stomach

large intestine

small intestine

DENTSUBOS

ass

EDMOND PLACE:
"THE EDMO"

PARKDALE COMMUNITY NOTICE

10 STOREY DEVELOPMENT @ 1499 QUEEN ST. W.

3X EXPANSION:
PARC is proposing two towers and 169 units on their already overcrowded small block.

OVER-CONCENTRATION:
Saturation of high needs services in one area is already straining public safety and space.

NO OUTDOOR SPACE:
Crowding already spills onto the sidewalk, nearby laneways, and adjacent homes.

PERMANENT IMPACT:
Once approved this expansion cannot be undone.

SCAN TO SIGN THE PETITION
DEMANDING RESPONSIBLE PLANNING AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.

Our city needs to invest in more mental health and addiction facilities with **fair distribution** across Toronto.

Crowding 169 high support units with no outdoor space lacks safety and **dignity** for PARC's residents.

Members of the community as asking if PARC's harm reduction program belongs adjacent to an **elementary school**.

Is it responsible for this concentrated use to become the **tallest building** in the area while consuming an **entire city block**?

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

EMAIL | **parkdaleneighbourhoodgroup@gmail.com**
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PARC